

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Office Action mailed March 30, 2005. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13, and 16-24 were pending in the Application. In order to advance prosecution in this case, Applicant amends Claims 1, 6, 13, and 22-24 without prejudice and disclaimer. The amendments and cancellations to the claims are not the result of any prior art reference and, thus, do not narrow the scope of any of the claims. Furthermore, the amendments are not related to patentability issues and only further clarify subject matter already present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and favorable action in this case.

Claim Objection

The Examiner has made an objection to Claim 24: specifically, identifying a typographical error. Applicant has made the correction to address the Examiner's concern and, thereby, overcome the Examiner's objection.

Section 112 Rejection

The Examiners rejects Claims 1, 6, 13, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for all of the couplings and connections claimed therein. Applicant has made a series of amendments to the claims to address the Examiner's concerns.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1, 6, 13, and 22-24 and the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of these claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, rejection. (See Office Action, p. 6.) The Examiner also objects to Claims 2-3, 7-10, and 16-21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant has made a series of amendments pursuant to the Examiner's recommendations in order to advance the prosecution of this case. Note that such amendments should not be construed as an acquiescence to or an agreement with the propriety thereof. The amendments have only been done in an effort to advance the prosecution of this case. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

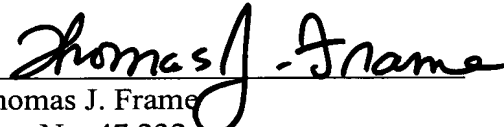
CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clear and apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicant believes that no fee is due. However, if this is not the case, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to advance prosecution of this application, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact its attorney, Thomas J. Frame at (214) 953-6675.

Respectfully submitted,  
BakerBotts L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicant

  
Thomas J. Frame  
Reg. No. 47,232

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Customer No. **05073**